

## CLAIMS

5    1. A method of generating a secure document comprising:  
reading a first authenticating code from a printable media;  
communicating said first authenticating code to a first transaction processor;  
receiving a second authenticating code from said first transaction processor;  
and,  
10    printing said second authenticating code on said printable media.

2. A method of generating a secure document according to claim 1, wherein reading  
said first authenticating code comprises:  
positioning a detector proximate to a printer;  
placing said printable media in said printer; and  
reading said first authenticating code from said printable media at said printer  
with said detector.

20    3. A method of generating a secure document according to claim 1, wherein reading  
said first authenticating code comprises:  
obtaining a specialty paper, said specialty paper comprising said printable media  
and having therewith said first authenticating code; and,  
25    inserting said printable media into a printer, said printer including a detector  
along a paper feed path of said printer, wherein said detector is arranged to read said  
first authenticating code from said printable media.

4. A method of generating a secure document according to claim 3, wherein said  
printer is further coupled to a computer, and communicating said first authenticating  
code comprises:

establishing a communications link between said computer and said first transaction processor.

5. A method of generating a secure document according to claim 4, further comprising:

5 using a printer driver on said computer to effect communications between said computer, said printer and said detector.

10 6. A method of generating a secure document according to claim 1, wherein reading said first authenticating code comprises coupling a detector to a computer such that a first communication link exists between said computer and said detector.

7. A method of generating a secure document according to claim 6, wherein communicating said first authenticating code comprises:

15 establishing a second communication link between said computer and said first transaction processor.

8. A method of generating a secure document according to claim 6, wherein communicating said first authenticating code comprises:

20 establishing a communication link using the Internet.

9. A method of generating a secure document according to claim 1, further comprising receiving user variable data from said first transaction processor and printing said user variable data onto said printable media.

25 10. A method of generating a secure document according to claim 1, wherein communicating said first authenticating code comprises communicating said first authenticating code to said first transaction processor before said first transaction processor returns said second authenticating code.

11. A method of receiving a secure document using a distributed network comprising:  
obtaining a printable media, said printable media having therewith, a first  
authenticating code;  
5 placing said printable media in a printer;  
detecting said first authenticating code;  
communicating said first authenticating code to a first transaction processor;  
receiving a second authenticating code from said first transaction processor;  
and,  
printing said second authenticating code on said printable media.

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12. A method of receiving a secure document using a distributed network according to  
claim 11, wherein obtaining a printable media comprises obtaining a printable media  
having therewith, a radio frequency identification device that has been preprogrammed  
to store said first authenticating code.

13. A method of receiving a secure document using a distributed network according to  
claim 12, wherein detecting said first authenticating code comprises using a radio  
frequency identification reader to read said first authenticating code from said radio  
frequency identification device.

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14. A method of receiving a secure document using a distributed network according to  
claim 13, wherein detecting said first authenticating code comprises positioning said  
radio frequency identification reader such that said first authenticating code is readable  
by said radio frequency identification reader when said printable media is in the paper  
25 path of said printer.

15. A method of receiving a secure document using a distributed network according to  
claim 12 wherein communicating said first authenticating code comprises:  
establishing a communications link between said first transaction processor and

a computer coupled to said printer;

maintaining said communications link open between said first transaction processor and said computer until said second authenticating code is printed on said printable media;

5 confirming to the first transaction processor that said second authenticating code actually printed on said printable media;

linking by the first transaction processor of the first and second authenticating codes in a database of valid authenticating codes; and,

10 closing said communications link between said computer and said first transaction processor.

15 16. A method of generating a secure document comprising:

reading a first authenticating code from a printable media positioned within the paper feed path of a printing platform;

communicating said first authenticating code to a computer;

communicating said first authenticating code from said computer to a first transaction processor;

issuing a second authenticating code by said first transaction processor;

20 linking said first and second authenticating codes in a database of valid authenticating codes;

transmitting said second authenticating code from said first transaction processor to said computer; and,

printing said second authenticating code on said printable media.

25 17. A method of generating a secure document according to claim 16, comprising:

reading said first authenticating code using a first reader coupled to a second transaction processor;

reading said second authenticating code using a second reader coupled to said second transaction processor;

transmitting said first and second authenticating codes from said second transaction processor to a third transaction processor;

comparing said first and second authenticating codes against valid codes stored in said database of valid authenticating codes;

5 transmitting a first message from said third transaction processor to said second transaction processor if said first and second authenticating codes are found in said database of valid authenticating codes; and,

10 transmitting a second message from said third transaction processor to said second transaction processor if said first and second authenticating codes are not found in said database of valid authenticating codes.

18. A system for generating a secure document using a printable media having a first authenticating code integral therewith, said system comprising:

a printer suitable to print upon said printable media;

a detector adapted to read said first authenticating code; and,

a first transaction processor arranged to store said first authenticating code read by said detector, and provide a second authenticating code, wherein said printer is arranged to print said second authenticating code onto said printable media.

20 19. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 18, wherein said first authenticating code is a unique code programmed into an radio frequency identification device.

25 20. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 19, wherein said radio frequency identification device is embedded within said printable media.

21. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 18, wherein said first authenticating code comprises an invisible ink printed upon said printable media.

22. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 18, wherein said first authenticating code comprises a unique code selected from the group consisting of a printed code of ferrous ink, a magnetic strip, and an encrypted bar code.

5 23. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 18, wherein said detector is incorporated into said printer.

24. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 18, wherein said detector is a separate unit attached to said printer.

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25. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 18, wherein said detector is attached to said printer along a paper feed path of said printer.

26. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 18, wherein said detector comprises a hand-held reader.

27. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 18, further comprising a computer coupled to said printer and said detector, said computer arranged to communicate with said first transaction processor and with said detector.

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28. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 27, wherein said computer communicates with said first transaction processor over a network connection.

25 29. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 28, wherein said network connection comprises an Internet connection, and said first transaction processor comprises an Internet enabled software program.

30. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 27, further

comprising a software program installed on said computer adapted to communicate with said detector and said first transaction processor.

31. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 30, wherein said 5 software program comprises a printer driver.

32. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 27, wherein said computer comprises a general purpose computer.

10 33. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 27, wherein said computer comprises a processor built into said detector.

34. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 18, further comprising a second transaction processor, said second transaction processor comprising:

a first reader;

a second reader; and,

20 a communication device, wherein said first reader is arranged to read said first authenticating code of said secure document, said second reader is arranged to read said second authenticating code, and said communication device is arranged to communicate said first and second authenticating codes to a third transaction processor to validate said secure document.

35. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 34, wherein said 25 first and third transaction processors are implemented on the same hardware.

36. A system for generating a secure document according to claim 18, wherein said second authenticating code comprises bar code indicia.

37. A system for creating a secure document comprising:

a radio frequency identification device embedded within a printable media, said radio frequency identification device programmed to store a unique first authenticating code;

5 a detector comprising a radio frequency device reader integrated into a paper feed path of a printing platform;

a computer arranged to communicate with said detector and said printing platform; and,

10 a first transaction processor arranged to receive said first authenticating code read by said detector and issue a bar code comprising a second authenticating code against said first authenticating code, wherein said second authenticating code is printed onto said printable media by said printing platform.